

**TÓTEM by Lila Avilés**  
**Berlinale Official Competition – Ecumenical Award**

[Variety](#) - Peter De Bruge

"Secrets Are Made and Truths Revealed at an Unforgettable Family Gathering"

[The NY Times](#) - Jessica Kiang

"Avilés manages to corral both, often in the very same shot, delivering deceptively naturalistic performances that plunge us into a young girl's first experience of the terrible and beautiful coexistence of life and death."

[Le Monde](#) - Clarisse Fabre

"The singularity of the project and the sum of tragicomic events that burst like mini fireworks put us in a state of exhilaration."

[The Film Stage](#) - Rory O'Connor

"a beautiful, bustling portrait of a Mexican family"

[ION Cinema](#) - Nicolas Bell

"Life and Death of the Party: Avilés' ensemble piece balances pain & profundity"

[The Hollywood Reporter](#) - Leslie Felperin

"Tótem packs in a massive amount of drama into a small space, and the rewards are immense"

[The Playlist](#) - Carlos Aguilar

"Tótem feels richer in its sublimely compassionate, cinematic observations on subjects for which words alone wouldn't suffice"

[The Moveable](#) - Stephen Salto

"Lila Avilés' spellbinding Tótem puts a hold on you"

[Screen International](#) - Jonathan Romney

"Lila Avilés achieves this feat with elegance and insight in Tótem"

"this thematically rich piece offers a set of vivid character studies, while musing on life, death and time"

[The Film Verdict](#) - Lucy Virgen

"great sensibility and a strong hand in Tótem"

[Loud and Clear](#) - William Sottor

"an expertly crafted family drama that finds human connection and clashes within confined interiors."

[Little White Lies](#) - Marina Ashioti

"affective ... impressive.. culminating in an extra-sensory"

[Cineuropa](#) – Fabien Lemercier "a delicate, perceptive and super sensitive story"